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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT for the patent application:

Application No. : 10/697,225
Applicant(s) : Mary Elizabeth Davis et al.
Filed : 30 October 2003
Title : Disposable Absorbent Article Having a Visibly Highlighted
Wetness Sensation Member
TC/A.U. : 3761
Examiner :
Conf. No. : 9781
Docket No. : 9396
Customer No. : 27752

1. ☒ No additional fees (claims fees or extension fees) are known to be required.
2. ☐ The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA*	RATE	FEE
TOTAL	* 20	MINUS	** 20	= 0	x \$18 =	\$0.00
INDEP.	* 6	MINUS	*** 6	= 0	x \$86 =	\$0.00
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM					+ \$290 =	\$0.00
					TOTAL	\$0.00

* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

** If the highest number of total claims previously paid for is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

*** If the highest number of independent claims previously paid for is less than 3, write "3" in this space.

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

3. The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-2480. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.
 - a. ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.16.
 - b. ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17.
4. The Director is hereby authorized to make any additional copies of this sheet needed to accomplish the purposes provided for herein and to charge any fee for such copies to Deposit Account No. 16-2480.

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Date: 15 April 2004
Customer No. 27752
(9396.Transamd.doc)



Application No. 10/697,225
Preliminary Amendment dated 15 April 2004

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/697,225

Applicants: Mary Elizabeth Davis *et al.*

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Art Unit: 3761

Examiner:

Docket No.: 9396

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Title: Disposable Absorbent Article Having a Visibly Highlighted Wetness Sensation Member

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Please enter the following amendments to the subject Application.

Amendments to the description begin on page **2** of this paper.

Amendments to the claims begin on page **4** of this paper.

Amendments to the drawing figures are described on page **10** of this paper and are shown on the attached replacement drawing sheets **4/9** and **8/9**.

Remarks begin on page **11** of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12 at line 6 of the application as originally filed with the following rewritten paragraph.

It is important to note that the visible highlighting of the present invention serves to visibly differentiate the wetness sensation member, which is located between the wearer's body and the absorbent core. Thus, rather than being structurally disposed in such a way as to provide a wetness indication that is visible from the outside of the absorbent article, any wetness indicating compositions used for the visible highlighting of the wetness sensation member must be visible from the body-facing surface of the absorbent article. This different disposition enables the caregiver to apply different techniques to the task of urinary toilet training when using an absorbent article of the present invention, as compared to using an absorbent article having only a wetness indicator visible from the outside of the article. For example, while the change in an exterior wetness indicator is visible for all to see, any change in the visible highlighting of an interior wetness sensation member remains "private" until either the caregiver or the wearer peers into the absorbent article or it is removed. Therefore, whether or not any wetting of the absorbent article has occurred can, itself, become the focus of a playful activity resembling a game, with the "secret" being revealed only when the caregiver and the wearer agree to conclude the game. If the wearer has successfully maintained control of his or her urination and has not wet into the absorbent article, this fact can become a source of pride at the accomplishment and can be "proven" by the wearer by pointing out to the caregiver that the visible highlighting has not changed in appearance. On the other hand, if the wearer notices a sensation of wetness or merely desires to check the condition of the "private" indication, he or she can simply look inside the absorbent article. If the appearance of the visible highlighting has changed, the wearer can then choose to bring this to the attention of the caregiver in the context of asking to go to the bathroom. In addition, because the visible highlighting serves as a "private" indication, the wearer might be able to detect a change in its appearance before the appearance of any externally visible wetness indicator changes and thereby be the first person to mention the subject of going to the toilet, *i.e.*, the wearer may be enabled to visually detect the wetting of the absorbent article prior to the time at which the caregiver could detect the same condition ~~be~~ by visual reference to the externally visible wetness indicator. Furthermore, the provision of both visual and tactile sensations to the wearer may serve to reinforce the tactile sensation of wetness and thereby enhance the training effect of the wetness sensation member. An absorbent article in which the wetting is indicated by both a wetness sensation and a visible change in the appearance of the visible highlighting may thus facilitate faster learning on the part of the wearer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18 at line 21 of the application as originally filed with the following rewritten paragraph.

An example of wetness sensation members integrated with the barrier leg cuffs is shown in **Figure 8a** and **Figure 8b**. The diaper **20** for this embodiment includes barrier leg cuffs **100a** and **100b** made from impermeable material. The barrier leg cuffs **100a** and **100b** extend along the longitudinal edges of the diaper **20** in a parallel arrangement disposed on the body-facing surface of the topsheet **24** leaving an exposed center portion **184** of the topsheet **24** therebetween. For the embodiment shown in **Figure 8a** and **Figure 8b**, the wetness sensation members **150a** and **150b** are integrated with the barrier leg cuffs **100a** and **100b** such that the barrier leg cuff material provides the flow control layer of the wetness sensation members. The permeable ~~layer 110~~ layers 110a and 110b can extend the length of each of the barrier leg cuffs and preferably ~~extends~~ extend at least the length of the crotch region **37** and the front waist region **36**. The permeable ~~layer 110~~ layers 110a and 110b ~~is~~ are preferably disposed on portions of the ~~cuff cuffs~~ closest to the longitudinal axis **42** of the diaper **20** to increase the likelihood of becoming wetted during urination. As shown in **Figure 8a** and **Figure 8b**, the barrier leg cuffs **100a** and **100b** include Z-folded configurations with inner folds **105a** and **105b** disposed near the longitudinal axis **42** of the diaper **20** leaving a center portion **184** of the topsheet **24** exposed. The Z-folded leg cuffs **100a** and **100b** also include outer folds **106a** and **106b** having elastic elements **108** disposed therein. During use, the elastic elements **108** deflect the leg cuffs away from the topsheet **24**, toward the skin of the wearer. The visible highlighting **200** is shown in **Figure 8a** as a pattern of angled lines.